

# ACTS

OF THE

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

## VIRGINIA,

PASSED AT THE SESSION OF 1838,

COMMENCING 1ST JANUARY, 1838, AND ENDING 9TH APRIL, 1838,

IN THE

SIXTY-SECOND YEAR OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

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RICHMOND:

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1838.

*Free Negroes.—Burning in Hand.—Concealed Weapons.*

**CHAP. 99.—An ACT to prevent free persons of colour who leave the state from returning to it in certain cases.**

(Passed April 7, 1838.)

**Free negroes leaving state to be educated not permitted to return.**

1. *Be it enacted by the general assembly,* That if any free person of colour, whether infant or adult, shall go or be sent or carried beyond the limits of this commonwealth for the purpose of being educated, he or she shall be deemed to have emigrated from the state, and it shall not be lawful for him or her to return to the same; and if any such person shall return within the limits of the state contrary to the provisions of this act, he or she being an infant, shall be bound out as an apprentice until the age of twenty-one years, by the overseers of the poor of the county or corporation where he or she may be, and at the expiration of that period, shall be sent out of the state agreeably to the provisions of the laws now in force, or which may hereafter be enacted to prohibit the migration of free persons of colour to this state; and if such person be an adult, he or she shall be sent in like manner out of the commonwealth; and if any person having been so sent off, shall thereafter return within the state, he or she so offending shall be dealt with and punished in the same manner as is or may be prescribed by law in relation to other persons of colour returning to the state after having been sent therefrom.

**Infants so returning how dealt with.**

**Adults how punished.**

**Commencement.** 2. This act shall be in force from and after the first day of August next.

**CHAP. 100.—An ACT abolishing the punishment of burning in the hand in all cases.**

(Passed February 8, 1838.)

**Burning in hand abolished.**

1. *Be it enacted by the general assembly,* That so much of any law of this commonwealth as authorizes or inflicts the punishment of burning in the hand in any case whatever, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed. And every person who may be hereafter convicted of any offence within the benefit of clergy, shall be punished in the mode now prescribed by law, except only the burning in the hand.

**Commencement.**

2. This act shall be in force from the passing thereof.

**CHAP. 101.—An ACT to prevent the carrying of concealed weapons.**

[Passed February 9, 1838.]

**Penalty for carrying concealed weapons.**

1. *Be it enacted by the general assembly,* That if any person shall hereafter habitually or generally keep or carry about his person any pistol, dirk, bowie knife, or any other weapon of the like kind, from the use of which the death of any person might probably ensue, and the same be hidden or concealed from common observation, and he be thereof convicted, he shall for every such offence forfeit and pay the sum of not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned in the common jail for a term not less than one month nor more than six months, and in each instance at the discretion of the jury; and a moiety of the penalty recovered in any prosecution under this act, shall be given to any person who may voluntarily institute the same.

**Courts to ascertain if murders or felonies be perpetrated by concealed weapons.**

2. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person shall hereafter be examined in any county or corporation court upon a charge of murder or felony, perpetrated by shooting, stabbing, maiming, cutting or wounding, and it shall appear that the offence charged was

in fact committed by any such weapon as is above mentioned, and that the same was hidden or concealed from or kept out of the view of the person against whom it was used, until within the space of one half hour next preceding the commission of the act, or the infliction of the wound, which shall be charged to have caused the death, or constituted the felony, it shall be the duty of the examining court to state that the fact did so appear from the evidence; and if the court shall discharge or acquit the accused, such discharge or acquittal shall be no bar to an indictment for the same offence in the superior court having jurisdiction thereof, provided the same be found within one year thereafter. And whether the accused shall be by such court sent on for further trial or discharged, it shall be lawful to charge in the indictment that the offence was committed in any of the modes herein before described; and upon the trial it shall be the duty of the jury (if they find the accused not guilty of the murder or felony) to find also whether the act charged was in fact committed by the accused, though not feloniously, and whether the same was committed or done with or by means of any pistol, dirk, bowie knife, or other dangerous weapon, which was concealed from or kept out of the view of the person on or against whom it was used, for the space before mentioned, next preceding such use thereof; and if the jury find that the act was so committed, they shall assess a fine against the accused, and it shall be lawful for the court to pronounce judgment as in cases of misdemeanor.

3. This act shall be in force from and after the first day of June next.

**CHAP. 102.—An ACT to extend the act for the temporary relief of the banks of this commonwealth.**

(Passed February 20, 1835.)

1. *Be it enacted by the general assembly,* That the first, second and seventh sections of the act passed on the twenty-fourth day of June, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, entitled, "an act for the temporary relief of the banks of this commonwealth, and for other purposes," shall be, and the same are hereby continued in force till the twentieth day of March next.

2. *Be it further enacted,* That so much of the provisions of the act, entitled, "an act increasing the banking capital of the commonwealth," passed March the twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, as relates to the Bank of Virginia, the Farmers bank of Virginia, and the Bank of the Valley of Virginia, shall be and the same is hereby suspended until the first day of April next.

3. This act shall commence and be in force from the passage thereof.

**CHAP. 103.—An ACT further to extend the act for the temporary relief of the banks of this commonwealth.**

(Passed March 16, 1838.)

1. *Be it enacted by the general assembly,* That the first, second and seventh sections of the act passed on the twenty-fourth day of June, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, entitled, "an act for the temporary relief of the banks of this commonwealth," be and the same is hereby continued in force till the expiration of the present session of the legislature, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

2. This act shall be in force from its passage.

Commonwealth.